

**Opening Statement as prepared
Chairwoman Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY)
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology
Committee on Homeland Security**

MARKUP

**H.R. 4842: the “Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act of 2010”
3/16/10**

There are hundreds of thousands of Americans who work day in and day out to protect our communities and our nation. They perform a wide range of services for the country – responding to emergencies, screening bags and cargo, watching our borders. They are outstanding public servants, and we thank them for their service.

We know that without them, we are less secure. They know that without science and technology, they can’t accomplish their mission. And that’s why we are here today – to acknowledge the importance of science and technology research, development, testing, and evaluation to ensuring the safety and security of the American people and our nation.

For over nine months, the Committee has been working to craft a bipartisan science and technology authorization bill. Our purpose in crafting this bill is to ensure that the Science and Technology Directorate has the right tools available to be successful. Success in this context means delivering products into the hands of our first responders, law enforcement officials, or critical infrastructure owners to help them achieve their mission and make America more secure.

In conducting our review, we’ve examined the Homeland Security Act and the Department’s use of the authorities the Congress has vested in it. We have also received insight and information from DHS leadership, stakeholders, the R&D community, private sector leaders, and independent analysts.

This legislation authorizes important management functions and programs within S&T.

Within this legislation, we:

- Institutionalize the process by which research and development is identified, prioritized, and funded within DHS;
- Establish training programs for developing technology requirements at DHS;
- Authorize an Office of Testing and Evaluation, designed to prevent problems that occurred in major acquisition programs like SBInet and A-S-P;
- Create an Office of Public/Private Partnerships and establish within S&T a streamlined review process for unsolicited proposals;
- Emphasize the importance of strategic planning, and require S&T to do so every two years;
- Authorize twice the current amount of funding for cybersecurity R&D;
- Affirm the Committee’s support for University Programs; and
- Explore alternatives for A-S-P technologies